

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for internationalization testing of a program under development, the method comprising steps of:

5 determining whether a command from a tester of the program contains a test switch therein, the test switch initiating the internationalization testing of the program; and

displaying to the tester a character string being tested within the program in a first format after receipt of the test switch when the command contains the test switch.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining whether the character string being tested is defined by a message catalogue key, whereby the character string being tested is internationalized if it contains the message catalogue key.

15 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

displaying to the tester the character string being tested in a second format when the character string being tested is not defined by the message catalogue key.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a message catalogue based on a locale parameter; and

20 retrieving a specific localized character string from a message catalogue using a message catalogue key.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein:

the locale parameter corresponds to a specific language; and

a plurality of localized character strings in the message catalogue is expressed in the specific language.

25 6. The method of claim 5, wherein:

the plurality of localized character strings includes times and dates; and

the times and dates are expressed in a format pursuant to the specific language.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the locale parameter is expressed as a country/language pair.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the character string being tested in a first format further includes:

5 manipulating letters of the character string being tested such that letters of the character string being displayed in the first format are opposite in case from letters of the character string being tested.

9. A computer-readable medium containing modules to control a processor for internationalization testing of a program under development, the modules comprising:

10 a module to determine whether a command from a tester of the program contains a test switch therein, the test switch initiating the internationalization testing of the program; and

15 a module to display to the tester a character string being tested within the program in a first format after receipt of the test switch when the command contains the test switch.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, further comprising:

a module to determine whether the character string being tested is defined by a message catalogue key, whereby the character string being tested in internationalized if it contains the message catalogue key.

20 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, further comprising:

a module to display to the tester the character string being tested in a second format when the character string being tested is not defined by the message catalogue key.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, further comprising:

25 a module to select a message catalogue based on a locale parameter; and

a module to retrieve a specific localized character string from a message catalogue using the message catalogue key.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein:

the locale corresponds to a specific language; and

the plurality of localized character strings in the message catalogue is expressed in the specific language.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein:

the plurality of localized character strings contains times and dates; and

5 the times and dates are in a format pursuant to the specific language.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the locale parameter is expressed as a country/language pair.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the module to display the character string being tested in a first format manipulates letters of the character string  
10 being tested such that letters of the character string being displayed in the first format are opposite in case from letters of the character string being tested.

17. A system for internationalization testing of a program under development, comprising an input device, a processor, and output device, a first memory to store the program, a second memory to store at least one message catalogue, and a third memory  
15 that includes modules to control the processor, the modules comprising:

a module to determine whether a command from a tester of the program contains a test switch therein, the test switch initiating the internationalization testing of the program; and

a module to display to the tester a character string being tested within the  
20 program in a first format after receipt of the test switch when the command contains the test switch,

wherein the input device allows a user to input the command containing the test switch for initializing a testing code,

wherein the output device displays the character string being tested in the  
25 first format, and

wherein the at least one message catalogue contains a plurality of localized character strings.